

Nov

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HELLO AGAIN!



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Many thanks to 19 traders who as of November 1 have helped support this newsletter. Others have sent Radio Guides, Xeroxed material, etc. I am in the process of preparing a list of about 300 Suspense with the correct dates. In order to do this I need the dates for many programs I have. These will be listed separately. Any help will be appreciated. This list will be out with the December newsletter.

Several people have asked about some of the legal technicalities of selling programs. I would appreciate information from people who have spoken to lawyers or others concerning;

1. Can you advertise and sell old 78's on tape?
2. Can you sell radio programs on tape?
3. Can you play your own tapes on the radio with or without a sponsor?
4. Can you play radio programs in a hall or restaurant and charge to have people listen to them?

I have received conflicting answers on these questions and would appreciate some answers for some of my readers.

A suggestion in listing programs is to indicate whether opening and/or closing is missing. Some traders, like myself, are interested in complete programs, and I especially am interested in the complete musical theme.

Several people list O'Henry Playhouse, The Coming of the Magi as The Coming out of Maggi. The first is correct. I am looking for just a few Dimension X and X-1 to complete my collection. If you have the following in very good condition or better please let me know.

Dim X; Courtesy; Kaleidescope; Last Objective; The Veldt.

X-1; Courtesy; Point of Departure; Saucer of Loneliness; Tyslana

QUIZ: Answers are still very slow in coming in. Just after the last newsletter was mailed Ernie Hack sent in 5 answers to September's quiz. I sent 4 hours of programs to Ernie. Wil Dufour has answered 2 questions to October's quiz. I will wait until December's issue to give the answers in case others of you come up with some answers. So each quiz will last for two months. I think this quiz will be a little easier. Most of the questions are taken from the programs themselves. Remember a reel of programs goes to the winner.

NOVEMBER QUIZ

1. In Gunsmoke what is Chester's last name
2. In what decade did Gunsmoke take place (when the stories took place, not when they were broadcasted)
3. On what street is the Longbranch in Gunsmoke
4. What was the date of the television debut of Gunsmoke
5. In Have Gun Will Travel give the name of the hotel where Palliden stayed, his assistant, the year in which it took place.
6. What was Jello's 7th delicious flavor
7. What program had for its theme "I Cover the Waterfront"
8. What was the name of Jack Benny's drummer
9. In The Life of Riley what was the name of his next door neighbor and the neighbor's son.
10. What hotel did Jack Benny usually stay in when he was in New York.

Is this any easier? Come on you radio buffs.

PUBLICATIONS: An excellent quarterly for the science fiction buff is The Riverside Quarterly, Box 40, University Station, Regina, Canada. It's editor is Leland Sapiro. The cost for a very professional looking booklet is 60¢. For the most part it contains stories and articles by many people including Jim Harmon. Jim usually has one article in each issue, usually about radio. The next issue will have

Jim's speech at Multicon 70

Another publication called Radio Waves is put out by Richard Vosburgh, 124 Longfellow Dr, East Greenwich, RI 02818. This is a several page booklet for the radio buff. It mostly contains articles about radio written during the last 50 years. The first issue was September, 1970.

A third publication is Our Kate, an excellent 60-page booklet about Kate Smith. This is the publication of the Kate Smith Fan Club and is edited by Rickard Hayes, 59 Myrtle Ave, Cranston, RI 02910. It contains many articles of the past and present, some by Kate Smith herself. I strongly recommend it to anyone with the slightest interest in Kate Smith. At the moment dues for belonging to the club is \$3 and anyone interested in past publications or joining the club should contact Richard Hayes. Dick, as mentioned previously, also trades radio programs and has an excellent selection of about 1700 programs.

SELLING: All people that responded to this question said that some selling was necessary to get traders started. They also stated that prices should be reasonable-\$5.00 an hour or less. I personally feel that if you sell reels that the price should be minimal because the actual cost is the tape and postage. There is very little time and effort in running off a reel as compared to taping individual programs, especially 15 minute ones.

DEATHS: Phil Spitalny, director of the famous all-girl orchestra died Oct 11 in Miami. He was 80. On Oct 12, Barney Rapp, famous band leader from New Haven, died in Cincinnati at age of 70.

Helen Connolly, Box 964, Brooklyn, Ny 11202 has been unable to complete her trade with Jim Gatzke, Coos Bay, Oregon. She has sent him tapes but hasn't heard from him. A phone call found that he was at school. If anyone has any information about him please contact Helen.

It would be wise to periodically check the speeds of your recorders with a stroboscope. A recorder running slow would give the receiver of the programs fast programs.

HERE AND THERE: Peter Bayer won \$125 in the New York Lottery. This money came just in time because one of his machines broke down. Bill Blalock (and I) are looking for a copy of Dangerous Paradise. (B B, 609 Blue St, Richland, Wash 99352)

Roy Bright recently had a nice writeup in his local paper in Peoria, Ill. Roy, 32, is a policeman. He started collecting about a year ago and has over 1000 programs. His hobby started when he answered an ad in a magazine.

Rex Bills mentions that he sold a 6-hour reel to a teenager who works at Radio Shack. The boy copied the programs onto cartridge tapes and played them on a lonely road for his date and friends. It was a success, especially the scary ones. He hopes to buy more. This is a good way to bridge the generation gap.

Will Dufour, 47 Lawrence St, Milford, Mass 01757. Wil is a new trader with just a few programs and is looking for people to trade with or to sell shows to him. Wil teaches 7th and 8th grade social studies and is about 26.

Lewis Crispell was once charged \$21.50 for Dracula (Mercury Theater). He did not purchase it. Has anyone been charged a higher price for one program?

Thank you Vern Eldridge for 2 1934 Radio Guides. These will be very helpful in providing articles and radio logs. Vern has some tape from 1950-51 which is still in excellent condition. They are Scotch and Irish brands.

Ken Gackler, 418 West Johnson St, Caledonia, Mich 49316. Ken has a good variety of programs.

Ernie Hack is 59 and has lived most of his life in Bristol, Conn. He works for the Eagle Lock Corp. and does some printing and the making of rubber stamps as a side line. Ernie is married and has one son. He is a firearms enthusiast and both belongs to several firearms associations but has instructed firearms safety to children and adults. Ernie is in contact with several movie stars because back in the 40's as a photographer he used to make reproductions for them. Some he is in contact with now are Eleanor Powell, Gene Autry, Bonita Granville Jimmie Durante. Ernie has many autographed pictures of movie stars and band leaders. Besides radio programs, Ernie collects band music and movie soundtracks. (E H, 6 Perkins St. Bristol, Conn 06010)

Roger Hill is looking for any Radio Guides or other literature of early radio for his course he is teaching at San Francisco State. He also would appreciate any help on his thesis (A Descriptive Study of the Use of Several Horror Devices in Radio Drama). These devices might be cruelty, social injustice, evil, the supernatural. Any information or articles would be appreciated. Roger has 47 students in his class which meets 7-9:30 on Tuesdays at San Francisco State College. Also Roger has access to a wire recorder in case any of you want some spools copied onto tape. (R H, 1231 Grove #11, San Francisco, Cal 94111)

Richard Hayes as previously mentioned is editor of the Kate Smith Journal. He is looking for Kate Smith programs as well as Hit Parade, Glenn Miller, Bing-Kraft Music Hall, Buddy Clark, Vaughn Monroe, Jerry Wayne, Andy Russell, Frank Sinatra, Goldbergs, Whetenaville (what was that program?), Snow Village, Woman in White.

Don Koehnemann is 43, married, and has two beautiful girls, 7 and 11. Don was a radio star in his own right, being on a local South Bend, Ind. station at the age of 8 publicizing the Li'l Abner Booster Club.

Gerry Kramer is very busy at his new job teaching business courses at Kansas State College in Pittsburg, Kansas. Unfortunately he may have to stop writing his magazine, Code-O-Graph, for a while. This magazine is primarily for the collector of radio premiums.

Jim Lane (s new address; 42 Ridgeway St, Chrismark Apt. 3, Sylva, N.C. 28779.

Mar-Bren Sound Co, Box 147 University Station, Syracuse, NY 13210. Howard Brenner is the president of this organization that primarily sells programs at a reasonable price. They are in contact with over 1500 collectors and actively trade with 100.

Evan MacBride suggests using Dak tape. This tape is reconditioned Ampex or Scotch Brand tape. In lots of 50, 1800-foot tape is 95¢ each and 1200-foot tapes are 75¢ each. If interested write to Dak Enterprises Sound Division, Box 69920, West Hollywood, Cal 90069.

Larry Parker, 124 S Boeke St, Evansville, Ind 47714. Larry and Don Pellow combine their resources in trading and their newsletter. Larry is married and studying to be an engineer.

Bruce Ruggles has a new address; Box 3000, North Bay, Ontario, Canada. Bruce would prefer to trade with only those using half-track machines. He also suggests that anyone with transcriptions to dub do so at a local radio station, or on professional equipment made for 16" discs. Some people evidently dub them using homemade or standard equipment made for regular LP's. Unless certain turntables, needles, and arms and filtering devices are used, the dub can be poor.

Got a nice phone call from Chuck Schaden out in Illinois. Chuck's interviews and radio program are still going fine. He looks great in his beard.

Sal Trapani remembers that for one of the Light's Out performances to get the effect of a falling body hitting the pavement they dropped a watermelon on concrete (splat)-very effective.

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Mel Simons, 37 Beverly Rd, Brookline, Mass 02167. According to Mel's letterhead he is a humorist, disc jockey, and either plays on or leads orchestras as well as trades tapes.

LATE MAIL AND THOUGHTS: The Original Amateur Hour is finally off the air waves after 36 years. It started in 1934 on radio with Major Edward Bowes as the originator. When he died in 1946, Ted Mack took over until this past September. The program switched to television in 1958, 6 months before the debut of Ed Sullivan. As of September it was the longest running program on television starting on Jan 18. Some winners who went on to greater heights were Frank Sinatra, Jack Carter, Pat Boone, Teresa Brewer, and Maria Callas. Its memory will linger on.

EDITING PROGRAMS: I'd like your opinion on editing programs. I get upset when I receive programs in which the original commercials have been edited out by another trader. What is worse, I think, is the deliberate or careless editing of credits, airchecks, etc. Sometimes the credits are chopped off because the trader ran out of tape and he didn't splice a little more on. I realize the editing has been done for legitimate reasons. I understand that many Suspense programs that just contain the story without even the title mentioned (although I think the title could have been left) was done so because of a time limit when they were broadcast overseas. Perhaps more traders should indicate in their lists if openings, closings are missing and what the sponsor is. At least this would tell the reader whether the programs have the commercials intact. What do you think?

Jack Knipe, in order to help traders with few programs, will dub a reel of programs for 2 reels of tape; one for the programs and one for his time. (J K, 158 Ridgewood Rd, West Hartford, Conn 06107.

Don Brush is now willing to trade programs for premiums. (D B, 19 Greenhouse Blvd, West Hartford, Conn 06110.)

Jack Miller is currently making tapes for a blind neighbor. He is an elderly person and remembers most of the programs.

Ernie Hack has heard about Olson polyester tape of 59¢ apiece in lots of 25 (1200 feet). 1800-foot tape is \$1.14 each in 25 reel lots. He hasn't tried it yet. Have any on you?

Got a nice note from Chris Lembesis. He soon will be interviewing Jack Benny.

Raleigh Barker listens to many Vic and Sades on a 5" RAA battery recorder while driving to and from work. Raleigh was recently visited by Herb Wells from Des Moines.

Please share this newsletter with any of your trading friends you wish.

Harry Sova's new Address; 1268 Eigenmann Center, Indiana Univ, Bloomington, Ind 47401

Bill Smerekanicz, 47 Benham Rd, Seymour, Conn 06483. Bill has an extensive collection and sells programs for reasonable prices.

BOOKS: Just picked up 3 books at a local used book place:

1. The Funny Men by Steve Allen; Simon and Schuster, NY; 1956
2. Radio, The Fifth Estate by Judith Waller; Houghton Mifflin Co 1956 (NBC publication)
3. Seth Parker and his Jonesport Folks by Seth Parker (Phillips H Lord) John Winston Co; 1932

It is now Nov. 7th, I have 29 paid subscribers, and I hope to get these in the mail by Monday. Keep the letters and money (if you haven't subscribed yet) coming in. So.... Hang by your thumbs and write if you get work.

Jay
Jay Hickerson, 6 Koczak Ct, North Haven, Conn 06473

MARCH 1929

Chief Roaring Thunder and the U.S. Indian Reservation Band were broadcast in the Keith-Orphaam Hour over the NBC System, Tuesday night March 12.

Vincent Lopez and the Chancellor Dance Orch. made its bow to listeners in the midwest over NBC, Wed, March 13.

Old Man Donaldson, the Trader Horn of radio is back on the NEC network on Fridays starting March 1st. Old Man Donaldson spins yarns about his experiences around the country.

Radex April, 1929
Courtesy; Jack Miller

THIS IS THE LIFE: PART 2

Jack Benny, at 17, was kicked out of high school, a failure in business college, and a fiddle player in a closed theater. Could things get worse? Jack then teamed up with Cora Salisbury, his former woman orchestra leader, in a violin-piano act and toured theaters in the area. He and Cora lived in cheap hotels, ate bad food in greasy restaurant, and played in third-rate theaters. They were often gyped out of their money and were usually broke. The act was called "Salisbury and Benny, from Opera to Ragtime." They worked for four years with nary a quarrel and sometimes under very adverse conditions, such as at Storm Lake where they played in a theater that was in the process of being built. The manager wanted 9 different performances so that the people could return and see something different instead of the same performance each time. Cora had to be with her sick mother after 4 years and Jack went back to help his father in his store. Jack, through a friend, Stub Wilbur, teamed up with a piano player, Lyman Woods. They were billed as "Benny and Woods, 10 minutes of Syncopation." Most of their work was around Chicago. In their third season they were finally booked at the Palace Theater in New York but the show flopped. They performed in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia with great success but flopped again in New York. Very soon after that his mother died. Jack then enlisted in the Navy. He was immediately assigned to a show that toured the country earning money for the Navy. During this time he worked with Zez Confrey and other big name figures from show business. Also he depended less on his fiddle and more on comedy. After the war he went back to vaudeville as a single and emphasized comedy, using the violin just to fill out the act. "And not long after that," he says, "I fell in love."

Radio Guide; June 26, 1937
Part 3 next month
Courtesy; Raleigh Barker

THE UNSEEN AUDIENCE

This month(Mar 1947) the FCC finally went after the daytime radio programs. In a 139 page report the FCC deplored the prevalence of soap operas, complained about the growing length of commercials, and appealed for help from outside forces. Such a force for the past three years has been H T Webster's Unseen Audience. These cartoons are the most telling contemporary criticism of radio. Webster's once-a-week cartoon hits radio where it hurts most, makes radio men squirm with anger. Originally drawn to do some mild spoofing, he gets his inspirations by keeping his radio playing while he works.

Life; March 3, 1947
Courtesy; Vern Eldridge

PLAYS BY RADIO

Plays by radio are, it seems, getting to be quite the thing nowadays, and an interesting item has recently come to notice regarding the equipment used in these radio dramas as presented by the WGY Players at Schenectady, New York.

This broadcasting station probably goes in for the transmission of plays by radio more than any other broadcaster and a great deal of careful thought is given to the matter.

On a large board are mounted every conceivable kind of bell and buzzer, together with pushbuttons for working each unit. Alongside the board, on a full-sized portable framework, a door is kept standing. When the plays are in progress of being sent out over the air, the proper bells are rung at just the right time, and whenever a player is supposed to leave the scene, the door will be alarmed mechanically.

Recently a broadcast from WGY had a scene with unusual problems. It was laid in a cow-shed, the characters carrying on their conversations with occasional interruptions from the bells of the cows. The scene was not overdone, but just enough atmosphere was given to make the audience know instantly what was going on.

St. Nicholas Magazine, July, 1924
Courtesy: Bill Blalock
609 Blue St, Richland, Wash 98552

KATE SMITH

On May, 1941, Kate Smith celebrated 10 years on the air with a special program on CBS. Present on this program were William Paley, Columbia president, and Clarence Francis, head of General Foods, her sponsor since 1937. Following her broadcast which ended at 8:55, she appeared in the radio play "Johnny Appleseed." Afterwards a reception was held in her honor. Today (1941) Miss Smith makes about \$5,500 a week from her evening show and a Monday-to-Friday noonday program. Besides introducing Irving Berlin's "God Bless America," she helped the following get their start: Ezra Stone and The Aldrich Family, Abbott and Costello, Henny Youngman (oh, that Henny Youngman), Ted Straeter, Bea Wain, and Adelaide Moffett.

Reprint of a May, 1941 article;
Our Kate; Courtesy of Dick Hayes